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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/845,994	04/30/2001	Hideyuki Agata	450100-03203	2930
20999	7590	02/20/2004	EXAMINER	
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151			CHOI, WOO H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2186	13

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/845,994

Applicant(s)

AGATA ET AL.

Examiner

Woo H. Choi

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 4 – 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Redford *et al.* (US Patent No. 5,711,672, hereinafter “Redford”).

3 With respect to claim 1 and 5 – 7 Redford discloses an information processing apparatus for reading data from a detachable predetermined recording medium (claim 1), comprising:

loading detection means for detecting the loading of a recording medium into said information processing apparatus. wherein said recording medium stores data;

starting means for starting, in response to the loading of said recording medium detected by said loading detection means, a resident application program for processing said data stored on said recording medium, wherein said resident application program is already stored, in said information processing apparatus before said recording medium is loaded into said information processing apparatus (col. 5, lines 60 – 62);

unloading detection means for detecting the unloading of said recording medium from said information processing apparatus; and

ending means for ending, in response to the unloading of said recording medium detected by said unloading detection means, said resident application program.

4. With respect to claim 4, recording medium is a semiconductor memory (col. 5, lines 3 – 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redford in view of Sato (US Patent No. 6,067,398)

Redford discloses all of the limitations of the parent claim, claim 1, as discussed above. However, Shih does not specifically disclose detection means for detecting access to said recording medium and means for restricting the unloading of said recording medium in response to a detection result provided by said detection means. On the other hand, Sato discloses an

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information processing apparatus for where unloading of recording medium is restricted while the recording medium is being accessed (Sato, claim 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Shih and Sato before him at the time the invention was made, to use the removal prevention mechanism teachings of the information processing apparatus with detachable recording medium of Sato, in the information processing apparatus with detachable recording medium of Shih, in order to prevent data corruption while recording or erasing (Sato, col. 10, lines 30 – 37).

7. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redford in view of Bott (Using Windows 95, Que, 1995)

Redford discloses all of the limitations of the parent claim as discussed above. Redford also discloses that said data stored on said recording medium includes one or more images, each of said one or more images has a type (col. 11, lines 30 – 36), and

said resident application reads one or more of said one or more images from said recording medium and generates a thumbnail image for each of said one or more images according to the type of that read image (col. 11, 32, “displaying selections” would read on the claimed limitation ‘thumbnail image’).

In addition, Bott specifically discloses that in Windows Operating System thumbnail images associated with different types of files are generated and displayed (pages 61 and 66, Figure 2.5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Bott and Redford before him at the time the invention was made, to use the thumbnail image associated with recorded image teachings of Windows Operating System as taught by Bott in the apparatus running Windows Operating System (col. 15, 37 – 40) of Redford, in order to be compatible with Windows look and feel.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Woo H. Choi whose telephone number is (703) 305-3845. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Kim can be reached on (703) 305-3821. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

whc /mmx
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February 17, 2004

[Signature]
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